

28 May 2021

The Hon Peter Quinlan
Chief Justice of Western Australia
Chief Justice's Chambers
Supreme Court of Western Australia
David Malcolm Justice Centre
Level 14, 28 Barrack Street
PERTH WA 6000

Email: Chief.justice.chambers@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Chief Justice

SEARCHING THE COURT'S ELECTRONIC PORTAL FOR GRANTS OF PROBATE

Thank you for your letter 5 March 2021 updating the Law Society on the programme to upgrade the e-Courts portal, to allow for electronic lodgement in the Probate Division and added search functionality.

Related to this matter, it has come to my attention that in some instances the e-courts system is not being updated to record grants that have been made until sometime following the actual date the grant has been made by the Court. On one occasion the status of an application had not been updated on the portal for seven business days following the date on which the grant had been made. This poses difficulties for our members who act in contested estate matters, who may need to take action prior to a grant being issued, for example to lodge a caveat to prevent the making of a grant in respect of a Will of which the validity is in dispute.

If the timely updating of grants on the e-courts portal could also be considered as part of the upgraded system, or as a matter of adjusting current practice, this would be of great value to the profession. It may also assist the Registry staff in their work by reducing the number of telephone calls and physical attendances at the Central Office by solicitors for the purposes of conducting Probate searches or obtaining information on the status of grant applications (as the e-courts portal would contain the up-to-date information).

If you have any queries please contact Mary Woodford, General Manager Advocacy and Professional Development on 9324 8646 or mwoodford@lawsocietywa.asn.au

Yours sincerely



Jocelyne Boujos
President